



Agent Alert

BREAKING NEWS FROM COVERED CALIFORNIA

September 15, 2016

Covered California for Small Business Rate & Plan Announcement

This morning in a press announcement, Covered California released the rates and expansion plans for its small group health insurance exchange, Covered California for Small Business (CCSB). Beginning January 1, 2017, the statewide average weighted increase is 5.9 percent for employers and employees, which is **down from the 7.2 percent rate change in 2016.**

All six carriers participating in 2016 will return for 2017: Blue Shield of California, Chinese Community Health Plan, Health Net, Kaiser Permanente, Sharp Health Plan and Western Health Advantage, and the number of agents writing business with Covered California for Small Business has doubled over the last two years.

Expanded Coverage Options to now include two full network PPO options:

- Blue Shield of California adds their Full PPO network statewide across all metal tiers with coverage available to employees working out-of-state
- A new plan, Trio HMO Network, powered by a recent innovation in health care, the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) will now be offered by Blue Shield of California.
- Kaiser Permanente will bring coverage to the Santa Cruz area

These expansions improve options for employers in rural parts of the state and expand access to the small business tax credit only available through Covered California for Small Business.

“The expansion of the small group market is allowing thousands of businesses to take advantage of the new budget control and employee choice now offered by Covered California for Small Business,” said Kirk

Whelan, director of Individual and Small Business Outreach and Sales. “Employers can select up to two adjoining metal tiers and then set their employee contribution level at one tier or the other. Meanwhile, the employee - knowing the employer’s contribution level - has the flexibility to choose which of the two tiers fits best with the employee’s budget and needs.”

Whelan also noted that Covered California for Small Business operations are sound, with new employers being enrolled within three days of filing an application, and a year-over-year retention of almost 90 percent. The growing interest and participation among insurance agents certified to sell plans on the exchange is a positive sign that we are doing things right.

Read the full [press release here](#), which includes more details on the CCSB rate change and expanded coverage choices for 2017 announcement.

Agent Service Center

Monday - Friday, 8:00am to 6:00pm
Saturdays and Sundays, Closed

Phone: 877-453-9198

Check the [Agent Service Center schedule](#) for availability.

Upcoming Outages

Friday, September 23 from 8:00pm to Monday, September 26, 2016 at 6:00am

Saturday, October 1 from 6:30pm to Monday, October 3, 2016 at 6:00am

Saturday, October 8 from 6:30pm to Monday, October 10, 2016 at 6:00am

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